

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: BRANDT AND DE MARTINO ON ITALIAN COMMUNISTS

1. COMMUNIST UNITA OF JANUARY 19 QUOTES REPLY GIVEN BY WILLY BRANDT IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY DANISH POLITIKEN. THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER BRANDT BELIEVES THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS (PCI) ARE DEMOCRATIC AND WHETHER THEIR ENTRY INTO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ENDANGER ITALY'S RELATIONS WITH NATO COUNTRIES. BRANDT'S REPLY: "I CANNOT AND DO NOT WISH TO RESPOND TO A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION AND THEREBY ANTICIPATE THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATIONS, THAT ARE TAKING PLACE AT THIS MOMENT IN ROME UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESIDENT LEONE, TO RESOLVE THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS. I UNDERSTAND THAT ONE LOOKS WITH SCEPTICISM AT THE DECLARATION OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS IN FAVOR OF A MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM AND AGAINST LEAVING NATO. ON THE OTHER HAND, I READ WITH INTEREST THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT LEO TINDEMANS IS CONVINCED OF THE EUROPEAN ORIENTATION (LITERALLY THE 'EUROPEAN RELIABILITY') OF THIS PARTY. I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE BEFORE US THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS IN WHICH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOME EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES WILL PRESENT US WITH SEVERAL SURPRISES; THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY ABSOLUTELY WARRANTS THE GREATEST ATTENTION."

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2. DE MARTINO IS QUOTED IN AN ANSA DISPATCH OF JANUARY 19 AS HAVING SAID THE FOLLOWING IN A SPEECH TO THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING AT COPENHAGEN: "'THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S CHARACTERISTIC IS THAT IT WHOLLY ACCEPTS THE DEMOCRATIC METHOD, PLURALISM, AND LIBERTY....' THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS HAD ALSO SHOWN A RELATIVE INDEPENDENCE TOWARDS THE SOVIET REGIME EVEN IF THEY HAVE ALWAYS REITERATED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE SOVIET UNION, DE MARTINO POINTED OUT. HE ADDED THAT IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, THE PCI SAID THAT IT ACCEPTED THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN NATO, WHILE BACKING A EUROPEAN POLICY WHICH WAS 'NEITHER ANTI-AMERICAN NOR ANTI-SOVIET... WE THINK THAT IT IS THE TASK OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S AUTONOMY AND TO MAKE THIS FULL AUTONOMY INTO A CONDITION FOR CREATING A LEFTWING ALTERNATIVE IN ITALY.'".VOLPE

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